



al-raida

BEIRUT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

MAY 1, 1980, Vol III, No 12

FACTS ABOUT IWSAW

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) was created for the purpose of enlightening people in the Arab world and elsewhere regarding the actual status of woman in these countries, the problems derived from traditional laws and attitudes which society has adopted toward her, and the ways of handling these problems.

The task is, of course, very wide and requires a long-term commitment. The problems of Arab women are being studied and discussed by various other institutions. The plan of IWSAW (founded in 1973) has been to concentrate on a few practical activities: documentation concerning the status of the Arab woman; preparation of bibliographies; research; a newsletter; organization of, and participation in local and international conferences; and starting a course on women's studies at Beirut University College. Its latest activities have been, first, the planning of educational materials for illiterate and semi-literate women, dealing with health, nutrition, child care, family planning and civic education, to be used in women's centers, family planning clinics and on radio programs. Second, a series of coming publications dealing with the Arab woman and including the following: "A Survey on the Development of Higher Education of Women in the Arab World," "Status of the Arab Woman: A Selected Bibliography," to be published by Mansell Publishing House; a monograph in both English and Arabic on "The Female Industrial Worker in the Suburbs of Beirut" and two books in Arabic, one on "The Image of Women in Arabic Textbooks" and the other on "Contemporary Arab Women Poets".

A significant share of the Institute's interest is directed toward the needs of childhood and the ways to meet them, not only because the majority of women are actual or potential mothers but, more particularly, because the care and guidance of children during their formative years is mainly entrusted to women.

As a result of this genuine interest, exhibits of children's books have been organized by the Institute; a library for the use of children has been opened at the college; an art course for children has been successfully established by the college Fine Arts Department. A training workshop for kindergarten teachers was held by the Institute at the College in the summer of 1979. Another training course for pre-school teachers has been inaugurated, lasting over the spring semester, from February till June 1980. Another one is planned for next summer.

The most recent activity of IWSAW has been the establishment of a committee grouping women and men interested in promoting and producing good literature for children. The Committee has applied for membership in the International Board for Books for the Young (IBBY) and expects to soon launch its program of work.

This brief statement will hopefully reflect the IWSAW'S positive method of dealing with women's and children's problems in this part of the world.

Contents

Facts about IWSAW

PIONEER

Laila Abou-Saif 2

STUDIES

Survey on
College Women 3
Problems Faced
by Re-entry
Women to BUC 4
Creativity & Culture 5

CONFERENCES

Career Education for
Asian Women 6
Leadership Conference
at A.U.B. 7
Economic Commission for
Western Asia (ECWA) 8
Women of the Middle East
in Church and Society 9

ARTICLE

A survey of the Asian Women's
Institute's Activities
in 1979 10

BOOK REVIEW

The Age of Discretion 12
Beyond the Veil 14

RECENTLY RECEIVED BY IWSAW